

domestic violence. I ask the NFL to stand up and be counted.

THE TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF 2013

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3043, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act.

Under what is known as the general welfare doctrine, the IRS excludes a broad array of public services for purposes such as education, public safety, health, housing, and culture from taxation; however, this has not always been the case for tribal nations.

Recently, the IRS has challenged tribal general welfare programs, despite many of these being nearly identical to tax exempt programs provided by Federal, State, and local governments.

Members of the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, the Kickapoo, Iowa, and the Sac and Fox Nation in Kansas have all voiced their concerns to me about invasive IRS audits and examinations that seek to tax government programs and benefits to their members.

This bicameral and bipartisan legislation will positively affect many Native Americans and is an important step in bringing IRS treatment of the tribes in line with how they are currently treating States.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence should never, ever be tolerated. The NFL's inept response to the recent reports of domestic violence has thrust a tragic spotlight onto this issue that we all are well aware of.

The truth of the matter is domestic violence and sexual assault are daily realities for women across our Nation. One in four women will experience physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. In 2012, in part of the area that I represent in California, 6,000 domestic violence cases were reported by the Fresno Police Department. It is hard to believe, and it is unacceptable.

Today, let's make a commitment not to let this moment fade away after the headlines are gone. As a cofounder and cochair of the bipartisan Victims' Rights Caucus, we will keep working with all the victim advocate groups to strengthen the Violence Against Women Act and end the rape kit backlog and ensure that every woman has the right to a life without violence.

OUR RIGHTS COME FROM OUR CREATOR

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, 227 years ago, our Founding Fathers signed the U.S. Constitution establishing a nation united around the principle that our rights as citizens come not from the government but from our Creator.

Today we recommit ourselves by choice to upholding and defending these fundamental principles recognized in this document, including liberty, freedom, and rule of law of our great Republic. Indeed, our first act as newly elected Members of this House is to swear an oath to uphold and protect this document.

These principles have guided our Nation well over the last 227 years, both in times of prosperity as well as discord. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is our duty and it is the duty of every American to ensure these liberties and freedoms can be passed on to our children and our grandchildren.

I am honored to stand here today and commemorate the works of these 39 brave and wise original signatories to our Constitution.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(Mr. HUFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, this month we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Wilderness Act, two of our Nation's most effective conservation tools.

In California, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided more than \$2 billion to protect some of our most iconic natural landmarks. In my district alone, this includes the Point Reyes National Seashore, Redwood National Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and countless State parks, trails, and recreation areas. The fund uses zero taxpayer dollars for these investments in the economic and environmental well-being of our communities; instead, it is funded by revenues from offshore oil and gas activities.

We celebrate also the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, which has protected some of our Nation's most pristine and intact wild places. As climate change begins to take its toll, protecting these wild places will be even more vital to the survival of many threatened and endangered species and to the conservation values that are part of our national fabric.

This should not be a partisan issue. Every American benefits from these two important laws and the lands they protect. Please join me in supporting them for another 50 years.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN CLARKE

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, after more than 40 years in the construction trade, my friend John Clarke of Wheeling has retired.

John is a lifelong West Virginian, the former president of Local 141 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and served on the International Executive Committee of IBEW.

After serving in Vietnam with the Marine Corps, John returned home and gave back to his community, serving on over 25 local charitable and professional organizations.

IBEW International President Ed Hill has said, "Working families in West Virginia have never had a better friend than John Clarke." And more importantly, in a world conflicted with partisanship, John proudly put his country first, not his political affiliation.

He made a difference. His decades of devotion to his country and his community can only be matched by his commitment to his wife of 43 years, Margaret, and his two sons, Justin and Lucas.

I extend my congratulations to John and wish him well in his retirement.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2014

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, each year from September 15 until October 15, the Nation celebrates the many contributions of Latinos during Hispanic Heritage Month.

In my home State of Texas, the Hispanic community continues to relish in the cultural and historical footprint in the areas of government, architecture, business, and the arts. From north Texas Hispanic elected officials, both past and present who are advocating for the Latino community, to the Rose Marine Theater in Fort Worth and the Latino cultural center in Dallas, Hispanic culture continues to illuminate all aspects of life and history in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

In the area of business and commerce, the contributions of business leaders continue to make the area that we live in one of the best in the entire country. Both Dallas and Tarrant Counties are fortunate to be served by very strong Hispanic chambers of commerce that proudly serve many of those businesses.

It is undeniable that Hispanic culture is woven into all aspects of contemporary American culture, and in the Dallas-Fort Worth area we are fortunate to be known as a city that is vibrant because of its strong Latino community.